



M.O.E. Policy Manual

POLICY TITLE	WATER MANAGEMENT - GOALS, POLICIES, OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (REVISED MAY 1984)	NO. 15-01-D1
<u>Legislative Authority</u> the Ontario Water Resources Act		
<u>Statement of Principles</u> To ensure the effective management of the Province's water resources, the following goals and policies contained in the publication Water Management - Goals, Policies, Objectives and Implementation Procedures of the Ministry of the Environment, November 1978 (Revised May 1984) shall be adhered to. Reference should be made to that publication for additional details of the guidelines, procedures and tables referred to in the following. <u>SURFACE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT</u> GOAL TO ENSURE THAT THE SURFACE WATERS OF THE PROVINCE ARE OF A QUALITY WHICH IS SATISFACTORY FOR AQUATIC LIFE AND RECREATION. Water which meets the water quality criteria for aquatic life and recreation (designated as the Provincial Water Quality Objectives, Table 1), will be suitable for most other beneficial uses, such as drinking water and agriculture. For the few parameters, where better water quality is required to protect these other beneficial uses in a given location, the appropriate criteria shall be applied in that location. <div data-bbox="1143 1682 1390 1717" style="text-align: right;">August 22, 1986</div>		
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<u>Effective Date</u> June 5, 1986		

POLICIES

1. Areas with Water Quality Better than the Objectives

In areas which have water quality better than the Provincial Water Quality Objectives, water quality shall be maintained at or above the Objectives.

2. Areas with Water Quality Not Meeting the Objectives

Water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be degraded further and all practical measures shall be taken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives.

3. Effluent Requirements

Effluent requirement will be established on a case-by-case basis. In establishing effluent requirements, the characteristics of the receiving water body will be considered, as will Federal and Provincial effluent regulations and guidelines where applicable. The effluent requirements so derived will be incorporated into Certificates of Approval (under Section 24, Ontario Water Resources Act) and will specify both waste loadings and concentrations.

4. Hazardous Substances

Special preventive measures are required to deal with the release of known or potentially hazardous substances. Accordingly, the Ministry's policy is to:

- (i) prevent the release of those substances listed in Table 2 which are hazardous if released in any concentration:
- (ii) ensure that special measures are taken on a case-by-case basis to minimize the release of any substances for which Provincial Water Quality Objectives have not yet been established.

5. Mixing Zones

A mixing zone is defined as an area of water contiguous to a point source where the water quality does not comply with the Provincial Water Quality Objectives. Terms and conditions related to a mixing zone will be designated on a case-by-case basis and may be specified in Certificates of Approval, control orders, requirement and directions, or approvals to proceed under the Environmental Assessment Act. The size of the mixing zone shall be minimized to the greatest possible degree and under no circumstances is the mixing zone to be used as an alternative to treatment.

SURFACE WATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT

GOAL

TO ENSURE A FAIR SHARING OF THE AVAILABLE SUPPLY OF WATER TO PROTECT BOTH
WITHDRAWAL AND IN-PLACE USES OF WATER

POLICIES

1. Water Quality-Quantity Inter-relationships

The withdrawal of water from and discharge of water to surface water bodies will be controlled to assist in maintaining or restoring water quality for the protection of aquatic life and recreation.

2. Permits to Take Water

Surface water takings will be controlled to prevent interference with other uses of water wherever possible and to resolve such problems if they do occur.

3. Surface Water Conservation

All reasonable and practical measures should be taken to conserve the quantity of surface water in order to maximize its availability for existing or potential beneficial uses.

GROUND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

GOAL

TO PROTECT THE QUALITY OF GROUND WATER FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF BENEFICIAL USES

In the majority of cases, human consumption will be the most important use of water to be protected, but there are other ground water uses such as agriculture with specific water quality requirements which will also be protected. Appropriate criteria for these two uses are given in Tables 4 and 5. In addition, protection of aquatic life (Table 1) is a consideration in cases where ground water is a significant component of streamflow.

POLICIES

1. Regulated* Sources of Contamination

The waste control requirements for proposed regulated waste discharges will be established on a case-by-case basis. As a general policy, water quality degradation will be controlled in order to protect reasonable uses, existing or proposed, of both ground and surface waters. The Ministry requirements relating to the quantity and the quality to the discharge will be specified and control measures may also be stipulated in the Certificate of Approval.

The treatment or elimination of pollutants from existing activities will be required where it is demonstrated that such measures are practicable and necessary to correct use impairment and will prevent further degradation or improve water quality. Where such measures are not practicable, the Ministry may require replacement of the affected supplies.

2. Unregulated** Sources of Contamination

All reasonable measures shall be undertaken to reduce or prevent the contamination of ground water by proposed or existing unregulated activities.

* Regulated refers to those activities which require specific approval under the Ontario Water Resources Act or the Environmental Protection Act.

** Unregulated refers to those activities which do not require specific approval under the Ontario Water Resources Act or the Environmental Protection Act.

GROUND WATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT

GOAL

TO ENSURE THE FAIR SHARING AND CONSERVATION OF GROUND WATER

POLICIES

1. Permits to Take Water

Ground water takings will be controlled to prevent water supply interference wherever possible through a water taking permit program under Section 37 of the Ontario Water Resources Act.

2. Resolution of Interference Problems

In the event that a ground water taking authorized by permit interferes with another water supply obtained from any adequate source that was in use prior to the issuance of the permit, the party causing the interference shall restore the affected supply or reduce the taking to eliminate the interference.

3. Ground Water Conservation

All reasonable and practical measures shall be taken to promote the conservation of ground water.